

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



April 18, 2003



*This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email [edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil](mailto:edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil).*

## DoD's leaders thank military for heroism, courage, talent

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2003 – Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld thanked the men and women of the department for their service in the campaign in Iraq, but said much still remains to be done.

Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard Myers spoke to Pentagon employees during a Town Hall meeting today. The meeting was beamed to American service members around the world.

"What you ... have done in the last month has been absolutely magnificent," Myers said. "Your courage, your talent, your leadership have given us – up to this point – a tremendous combat victory."

The progress in the war to overthrow Saddam Hussein, "is a credit to the men and women in uniform who are serving on the front lines in the theater," Rumsfeld said.

"What's happened is amazing for the speed with which it was executed," the secretary said. He noted that speed was responsible for reducing both coalition and Iraqi casualties. It was responsible for stopping the Iraqi regime from firing missiles at its neighbors. It was responsible for allowing the coalition to secure the Iraqi oil fields.

The Iraqi infrastructure is largely intact, he said, and there have not been massive civilian casualties. "This was not just good luck," Rumsfeld said. "This was the result of very careful planning by extraordinary people in the region, at Central Command in Tampa (Fla.) and here in the department. But above all, what has made it possible is the same thing that has made success possible in other wars: the courage and heroism of the men and women in uniform."



"Such heroics are the daily work of men and women in uniform who serve not only in Iraq, but in Afghanistan and so many places across the globe, defending the American people."

The secretary said because of the presence of reporters embedded with units, now the American people have an idea of the professionalism and heroism of their military. Rumsfeld said the outcome of the embedding process was a "roll of the dice" during first discussions of the idea.

"But the outcome is pretty clear," he said. "There is no question but that the American people were able to see slices of what took place. They could see accurate presentations and representations and written accounts of what the men and women in uniform were doing."

Rumsfeld said that the embedding process has a side benefit. "There's now a new generation of journalists who have had a chance to see what kind of people volunteer to put their lives at risk. And that's a good thing."

Rumsfeld and Myers took questions from the audience on a variety of subjects.

Transformation was one hot topic. Rumsfeld said the U.S. Joint Forces Command is working with U.S. Central Command to capture the lessons learned from Iraq. "If you think about it, what took place in Afghanistan significantly informed what took place in Iraq," he said.

The U.S. military will take the good lessons and apply them immediately. For example, Rumsfeld said he was "sure" and "positive"

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## Commander: U.S. bases won't leave Germany

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) - A senior American military commander denied Friday that the United States would shift its bases from Germany to the newest NATO members in eastern Europe because of Germany's opposition to the war in Iraq.

"Germany has significantly supported behind the scenes what we did in Iraq," said Gen. Charles Wald, the deputy chief U.S. Army commander in Europe. "There have been only rumors that there has been tension between Germany and the U.S. and that we'd be leaving Germany."

But some changes were ahead, Wald said.

The United States will establish bases in the new East European NATO members - Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia - while keeping its presence in Germany, Wald said.

### DoD's leaders thank military for heroism, courage, talent continued

that out of this we're going to end up finding ways to reduce friendly fire casualties."

The secretary also said that some aspects of the war confirmed other transformational thoughts. He has directed the chairman to examine ways to reconfigure active, Guard and reserve manning in areas like civil affairs. He said much of that capability is in the reserve components. Some of that capability needs to shift to the active force, he noted, "or else you're going to call people up every other year, which isn't really what they sign up for."

Myers said he wished he could say that the war is winding down. "But I can't. ... A lot more work remains in Iraq and around the world. We still have troops in Afghanistan facing danger every day, and in other countries as we fight this war on terrorism."

Looking at Iraq's neighbor, Myers said Syria needs to be more cooperative. "You want people in the neighborhood to be helpful," he said. "And to be helpful you can't be imposing an external influence, trying to work your own agenda."

Myers said that Syria is definitely harboring some of the families of Saddam's senior leaders and possibly some leaders themselves. He said Syria has sent in jihadists to fight against the U.S.-led coalition and sent equipment in for Iraqi forces. "That sort of behavior simply has to stop," he said.

Myers said there are still those who hate America and the values it stands for. Those enemies will use terrorism to attack America and Americans, he observed.

"So, for those of you still out there still wearing your Kevlar, still aboard ships — for that matter, for us here at home — I think our challenge is this: We have to always be prepared, we've got to stay true to the values that got us to this point and ... we've got to keep our guard up."

"There is no doubt in my mind that as NATO moves east our presence and our participation will have to be where NATO is," he said. "It is recognized that these areas are strategically important to NATO and the U.S."

## Bulgaria to send troops to Iraq

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) - Bulgaria will send peacekeeping troops to Iraq next month, a senior military official said Friday.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Nikola Kolev said an infantry unit with patrolling functions would be deployed by the end of May.

Earlier this week, the Defense Ministry said the United States had asked Bulgaria to contribute a peacekeeping force, but saw no need for the anti-chemical and anti-biological unit originally tapped to take part in the war.

Bulgaria was invited to join NATO in 2004 and is a strong supporter of the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Poland and the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have also announced plans to send peacekeeping troops to Iraq.

Bulgarian troops have been involved in peacekeeping operations in Kosovo, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

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*U.S. General Tommy Franks, center, is accompanied by retired General Ali Mo'men, left, the head of the Kuwaiti Humanitarian Office for Co-ordination for Iraq (HOC-IRAQ), and U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, Richard Jones, right, during his visit to the HOC, Thursday, April 17, 2003. Franks said that efforts to bring aid to the Iraqi people steps up and that aid is already reaching the people. (AP Photo/Stephanie McGehee/Pool)*

# U.S. Marines to bow out of Baghdad in new phase

By Matthew Green

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - U.S. Marines, rapid strike forces who helped seize Baghdad, will begin handing control of their sector of the city to the U.S. Army on Saturday, signaling an end to the fighting phase in the Iraqi capital.

"Essentially the combat operations are over," Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Chartier, commanding officer of the U.S. Marine 1st Tank Battalion, told Reuters on Friday.

"Now it's a matter of maintaining the peace and ensuring stability is maintained throughout Iraq," he said.

Baghdad is currently divided between Marines who control the capital east of the river Tigris, and Army units occupying the western half. The handover will bring the city under the control of a single commander.

"We're seen as 'kick in the door' kind of guys. We're the enablers for the Army to do what they do," Major John Schaar, of U.S. Marine Regimental Combat Team Seven, currently deployed in eastern Baghdad, told Reuters.

The Marine Corp is a distinct organisation from the U.S. Army, designed primarily as a vanguard strike force. The much larger army has more resources to deal with the reconstruction and policing role required in the capital, where many residents are deprived of electricity and living in fear of looters.

The Marines' move is part of a plan to reorganize the overall pattern of U.S. forces in Iraq. The Third Infantry Division of the Army's Fifth Corps will remain in Baghdad, while the Army's Fourth Infantry Division will cover the northern part of the country.

At U.S. Central Command headquarters in Qatar, Brigadier General Vincent Brooks said the relocation of forces was aimed at expanding security throughout Iraq.

"This is also part of that plan for transition from decisive combat operations to stability operations...It will take a number of days to do," Brooks told a news briefing.

## PILGRIMAGE

Marines are due to take over southern towns, including Najaf, Kerbala, Hillah and Diwaniya from the Army, hoping to complete their move within about a week.

The redeployment coincides with what Marines expect to be the biggest movement of pilgrims around the holy cities of Najaf and Kerbala in 26 years.

Intelligence officers predict 150,000 to 200,000 Shi'ite Muslims will move through the area from April 19 to 26, potentially clogging up roads with traffic.

The last time Iraqi Shi'ites marked the pilgrimages in public was in

1977 when Iraqi troops attacked pilgrims.

Marines said the fall of the government of Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Muslim who oppressed Iraqi Shias, might encourage more worshippers to make the journey this year.

The Marines do not plan to enter Najaf during the pilgrimage, but create a temporary position outside the town before taking control from the Army 82nd Airborne Division.

The first Marine units are due to start rolling south on Saturday before starting security and reconstruction missions, tasks they have traditionally considered secondary to fighting.

"We understand what's required. We can shift gears between high intensity (combat) back down to the humanitarian operations," said Colonel Steven Hummer, commanding officer of Regimental Combat Team Seven of the First Marine Division.

"In the same day Marines will be shooting and then they'll be handing out candy to kids or taking care of someone who got hurt," he told Reuters.



**Marine Sgt. Cameron Ahrens, 22, of Belleville, Ill., left, radios for medical assistance while Petty Officer Jason M. Delonai, 24, of Lawton, Okla., administers first aid to an Iraqi man who was stabbed and beaten by a mob when he tried to stop looting Sunday in Baghdad.**

*Photo by Sgt. L.A. Salinas, U.S. Marines.*

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# Another regime leader captured

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 18, 2003 – Iraqi Kurds handed over the Ba'ath Party regional command chairman for East Baghdad to coalition special operations forces yesterday, U.S. Central Command officials said this morning.

Samir abd al-Aziz al-Najim was the “4” of clubs in the deck of cards issued to coalition troops to identify the 55 “most wanted” members of Saddam Hussein’s regime.

“He ... is believed to have first-hand knowledge of the Ba’ath Party central structure,” Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, vice chief of operations at U.S. Central Command, said during a briefing from Qatar today. “The coalition is pursuing other regime leaders.”

To date, on April 16, coalition special operations forces captured Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, Saddam Hussein’s half-brother and “5” in the card deck. On April 14, coalition forces captured Abu Abbas, a terrorist responsible for the hijacking of the cruise ship Achille Lauro in 1985. Another Hussein half-brother, Watban Ibrahim Hasan, was captured April 13 in northern Iraq reportedly trying to flee to neighboring Syria.

And coalition air forces struck a compound in early April, believed to house Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of Saddam Hussein. Known as “Chemical Ali,” he is suspected of ordering the 1988 gas attacks that killed thousands of Kurds in the northern Iraqi village of Halabja.

Coalition land forces are expanding the security zones in the country. The Army’s newly arrived 4th Infantry Division encountered paramilitary resistance as it moved north between Taji and Samarra. “In the engagement, the coalition destroyed eight technical vehicles

and captured over 30 enemy prisoners,” Brooks said.

The arrival of the fresh forces allows coalition commanders to transition from combat operations to stability operations. Brooks said these commanders can “consolidate some of the forces on the battlefield, like the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, and assign them to an area where they can do more detailed work in establishing conditions of security and stability.”

Brooks noted that the changes will continue and take a few days to accomplish. The units are conducting what the military calls a relief in place. “One unit arrives to take over from one in place, and then it can move to its next destination,” he explained. “And there may be subsequent relief at the location they’re going to.”

The lack of electrical power remains a core problem for coalition humanitarian efforts, but progress is being made daily, Brooks said. Near the Hadithah Dam, coalition forces and Iraqis restored electricity to the surrounding community. In the northern towns of Irbil, Dohuk and Sulimaniyah, there is sufficient fuel on hand to run electric powerplants for more than 40 days.

“Returning full power to Baghdad will require more electrical managers and technicians to come back to work,” the general said. Brig. Gen. Steven Hawkins and members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have formed a team to focus on the efforts of power restoration, and they began assessments of several powerplants in Baghdad.

“The team met with power board members and technicians, encouraging them to return to work and to restore power to the people of Baghdad,” Brooks said. “As of today, in Baghdad, six diesel-operated plants are online and generating power, and the south Baghdad powerplant has resumed operations.”

Medical assistance is increasing and becoming more effective, Brooks said. Coalition forces and some humanitarian organizations are working to ensure hospitals have the supplies they need to operate.

In some cases, he pointed out, this means redistributing captured enemy supplies. In others, it means bringing in supplies from out of the country.

“I would add that there are site surveys that have been conducted by Jordanian and Saudi Arabian medical teams that have occurred over the last several days, and more humanitarian supplies and medical supplies are flowing in all the time,” Brooks said.

Kuwait and Qatar are among the countries donating supplies and expertise to the effort.



*Three women walk past South Korean riot police after emerging from the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, April 18, 2003. Security was increased at the embassy after an anonymous caller told U.S. officials in Istanbul, Turkey, that a terrorist suspect planned a suicide bomb attack on the U.S. Embassy in Seoul to protest the U.S.-led war in Iraq. (AP Photo/Greg Baker)*

# Rescued POWs await return home to U.S.

by Panos Kakaviatos

LANDSTUHL, Germany (AP) - Showing the camaraderie that helped get them through their ordeal, seven American POWs who were rescued in Iraq waved at well-wishers Friday from a balcony at this military medical facility and said they couldn't wait to get home.

"We all would like to thank our Americans for the tremendous support we've been getting, and we're looking forward to coming home as soon as we possibly can," said Chief Warrant Officer David S. Williams, 30, an Apache helicopter pilot who spoke for the group.

He urged Americans to pray for U.S. troops still in Iraq.

Two of the POWs playfully hoisted up Army Spc. Shoshana Johnson so she could greet the crowd. Johnson, 30, was shot in both ankles during an ambush that led to the capture of five in the group, and remains in a wheelchair.

All seven were expected to return home Saturday, said Landstuhl spokeswoman Marie Shaw.

"None of their injuries appear to be serious," said Col. David Rubenstein, commander of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where the seven were flown Wednesday from Kuwait.

"Their appetites are very good. They slept very well last night," he told reporters. "They are catching up on the latest movies and news."

Besides Johnson, two other soldiers suffered gunshot wounds: Spc. Edgar Hernandez, 21, who was shot in the elbow, and Spc. Joseph Hudson, 23. Rubenstein had no immediate details on Hudson's wounds, but he said both men had minor injuries.

Previously, military officials had only identified Hernandez and Johnson as having been shot.

Five of the freed prisoners were comrades of former POW Jessica Lynch from the U.S. Army's 507th Maintenance Support Company, which was attacked in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah on March 23.

They are Johnson, Hernandez, Hudson, Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23, and Sgt. James Riley, 31.

The other two, Williams and Chief Warrant Officer Ronald D. Young Jr., 26, are helicopter pilots from the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment.

Landstuhl is the largest U.S. military hospital outside the United States, and so far has treated nearly 250 patients with battlefield injuries from the war.

Among them was Lynch, who has been flown back to the United States and is recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. She suffered a head wound, a spinal injury and fractures to her right arm, both legs and her right foot and ankle.



**FREE** — Seven Army former POWs greet the media April 18 from the balcony of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany. U.S. Army photo by Melvin Tarpley.

# Troops find weapons stash in Afghanistan

by D'Arcy Doran

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) - Romanian troops have found the biggest stash of weapons yet in Afghanistan - two caves stuffed with thousands of rockets and more than 1.25 million rounds of ammunition.

The weapons were found Wednesday and Thursday during searches outside the village of Hazarkhel, U.S. military spokesman Col. Roger King said Friday. The village is about 220 miles southwest of Kabul.

Also Friday, King said U.S. forces were concerned about a standoff between Afghan and Pakistani forces near the border. The cause of the dispute was unclear and so far only warning shots have been fired, King said.

In the caves near Hazarkhel, the Romanians found some 3,000 107 mm rockets, about 150 mortar rounds, 30 anti-tank mines and the ammunition, King said.

"This is the largest cache found to date by coalition forces in Afghanistan," King said, adding all the weapons were blown up at the site.

The 107 mm rockets have become staples in the guerrilla war being waged by remnants of al-Qaida and the ousted Taliban against coalition troops.

Five rockets were fired overnight at a U.S. base in Orgun, 100 miles south of Kabul, King said at Bagram Air Base. No one was hurt in

the attack.

King said Afghan militia forces were locked in a standoff with Pakistani troops at the border near the eastern village of Ghulam Khan.

"Nobody's engaging in a direct fire fight as far as we've been able to determine," he said.

Coalition forces were in the area and were trying to calm the situation, he said.

"We have two governments, both of which work with us, seemingly having a dispute," King said. "We're concerned, we're interested and we're hopeful of a good outcome."

The cause of the standoff was unclear, and without a clearly marked border it was unclear if the Pakistani troops had crossed into Afghanistan, he said.

Separately, the Interior Ministry said Friday that German-trained Afghan police officers were sent to the troubled northern Afghanistan city of Maimana, to enforce a peace brokered by President Hamid Karzai's government between two rival warlords.

The special unit of 50 Afghan policemen that will patrol the capital of northern Faryab province, 435 miles north of Kabul, are the first officers from President Hamid Karzai's central government dispatched to the unruly north.



*In this image from video, aired on Abu Dhabi TV April 18, 2003, Iraq President Saddam Hussein is shown moving through a cheering crowd of supporters in Baghdad. The television station said the footage was taken April 9, just over a week ago, as U.S. forces moved into Baghdad. That same day, a crowd of Iraqis, with the help of U.S. Marines, toppled a 40-foot statue of Saddam in a main square of the capital. (AP Photo/Abu Dhabi TV via APTN)*



# U.S., British forces release 887 Iraqi prisoners

By Charles Aldinger

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. and British forces have released 887 Iraqi prisoners, but continue to hold 7,000 others as they sort through those captured in the monthlong war in Iraq, the Pentagon said on Friday.

"We are busy going through the process of determining their status. We have said all along that we don't want to hold anybody any longer than necessary," said Navy Cmdr. Chris Isleib, a Defense Department spokesman.

He told Reuters the 887 released as of Friday had been determined to be noncombatants and were not part of any Iraqi military force.

The remaining 7,000 prisoners, many members of regular Iraqi army units, were still being investigated to determine their status and whether they might be charged with any crimes.

Isleib said he did not know exactly where the Iraqis were released. A large number of prisoners are being detained in the southern port city of Umm Qasr, where a tent city is being built that could hold as many as 24,000 prisoners.

The spokesman said some prisoners were being held elsewhere in

Iraq, including with units of the U.S.-led military force that invaded the country to overthrow the government of missing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Defense officials told reporters earlier this week that several Iraqi army generals were among those being held, but the prisoners were not believed to include top former government leaders or members of Saddam's family.

Noncombatants released since the war began have been allowed to go free.

Under the Geneva Conventions, Isleib said, prisoners are supposed to be released to the "protecting power" of their own country. But any of those still being held who are determined to be actual combatants cannot be turned over to an Iraqi government that no longer exists.

While some of the Iraqi POWs could be charged with committing war crimes or other offenses, defense officials said the Pentagon was trying to determine whether other military prisoners could simply be set free without waiting for an interim Iraqi government to be formed.



*A U.S. soldier guards a checkpoint near the national bank in Baghdad, April 18, 2003. U.S. Marines, rapid strike forces who helped seize Baghdad, will begin handing control of their sector of the city to the U.S. Army on April 19, signaling an end to the fighting phase in the Iraqi capital.*

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# U.S. airfield troops sustain ops, assist Iraqi populace

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 18, 2003 – U.S. Army and Air Force troops at an airfield in southern Iraq are providing military air and logistical support — and much-needed medical and other assistance to local Iraqis.

“Now that we’ve transitioned to the post-hostility phase, we’re really getting our medical people out into the local community, and they’ve been down to An Nasiriyah, to the hospital there, almost daily,” noted Army Brig. Gen. Jack Stoltz, deputy commander, 377th Theater Support Command.

Stoltz is also the chief of all U.S. civil affairs activities in the Nasiriyah region, where Tallil Forward Air Base is located. He and Air Force Col. John Dobbins, the air base’s commander, took part in an April 17 news teleconference with Pentagon reporters.

The air base, the general noted, provides “food, fuel and other supplies as needed” to U.S. forces in Iraq.

Also, the air base’s U.S. civil affairs contingent is providing humanitarian support to local Iraqis, Stoltz pointed out, “to get the country stood back up on its feet” and “Iraq back to being a normal, working economy.”

U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division troops seized the airfield from Hussein-regime forces on March 23, noted Dobbins.

During hostilities, he said, military supplies were flown out of Tallil earmarked for U.S. and coalition troops moving north.

And a multitude of A-10 aircraft ground-support and air search-and-rescue missions were also launched from the air base, the colonel

continued, including a high point of 50 sorties during the height of combat operations in the country.

Members of a United Kingdom military engineering unit had patched up the runway, Dobbins pointed out, and they are now constructing facilities to improve the quality of life for air base personnel.

The U.S. combat support hospital at Tallil has provided medical treatment not only to wounded U.S. and coalition troops, but also to injured Iraqi civilians and enemy prisoners of war, Stoltz pointed out. He noted that the Americans have been “really saving a lot of Iraqi lives here at the airfield.”

The civil affairs troops, the general said, are also working with local Iraqis to get regional water and electrical plants back on line. In the meantime, he pointed out, the Americans are providing purified water to the Iraqi populace, as well as providing medical supplies and using portable electric generators to keep local hospitals running.

Consequently, Stoltz remarked, there has been “a dramatic shift” in how the Iraqis view the Americans, from an initial attitude of “hesitancy and fear” to gratitude.

During a recent trip north to Baghdad, Stoltz said he saw farmers plowing their fields and children playing soccer, supporting his view that perhaps Iraqis are returning to societal normalcy.

And, the general recalled, “in every instance along the roadway ... all the locals were waving to us and thanking us and ... giving us the peace sign.”

The Iraqis’ attitude toward Americans “is very positive, very pro-American now,” Stoltz concluded.



*A tank takes up position outside the plundered Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad on Wednesday. Photo by Oleg Nikishin / Getty Images*



# Board votes to rename mountain after fallen soldier

PHOENIX, Arizona (AP) — After prodding from the governor, a state board Thursday decided to rename a prominent mountain peak after an American Indian servicewoman killed in Iraq.

Some members of the Arizona Geographic and Historic Names Board had resisted Gov. Janet Napolitano's push to rename Squaw Peak in honor of Army Pfc. Lori Piestewa, noting that federal policy requires that people be dead five years before their names can be used on geographic features.

But one critic resigned and chairman Tim J. Norton — whose resignation Napolitano had sought — was a no-show when the rest of the board voted 5-1 to rename the Phoenix landmark Piestewa Peak.

State maps and records are affected by the decision, which also serves as a recommendation to a national board to change the name on federal maps and documents.

"For the purposes of Arizona, the name is Piestewa Peak," said Tim Nelson, general counsel for the Democratic governor.

Piestewa, a Hopi from Tuba City in northern Arizona, is the only American servicewoman to die in the war. She was among nine members of the Army's 507th Maintenance Company killed when their unit made a wrong turn near Nasiriyah and drove into an ambush March 23. Six members of the 507th were taken prisoner but ultimately rescued.

In renaming Squaw Peak, Napolitano sought to honor Piestewa while removing a name many Indians find offensive. Indian lawmakers and others had tried repeatedly to remove the word "squaw" from the names of Arizona landmarks but failed to garner enough support.

"Lori's legacy will live on," said Delia Carlyle, vice chairwoman of the AK-Chin Indian Community about 60 miles south of Phoenix.



Lloyd Clark, the only member on the state board to vote against the change, said the point of the waiting period is to let emotions settle before making a decision.

Richard Pinkerton resigned from the board Thursday after 19 years of service, saying he refused to "prostitute my integrity in the interest of satisfying a certain political venue."

In his resignation letter, Pinkerton said the board should not be at "the governor's beck and call."

Napolitano asked Norton for his resignation after he resisted her proposal and called wholesale name changes an "atrocitiy."

The board Thursday also gave its blessing to naming the Squaw Peak Freeway after Piestewa. The state's transportation board is set to decide whether to rename the roadway next month.



*General Tommy Franks and Brigadier General James Schwitters take a walk though a former palace of Saddam Hussein's while visiting Baghdad for the first time Wednesday. Photo by Karen Ballard, Corbis Sygma.*

## **Family separation, imminent danger pays upped retroactively**

by Tom Philpott, Special to Stars and Stripes

President Bush signed a wartime defense supplemental bill Wednesday that raises military Family Separation Allowance by \$150 a month and Imminent Danger Pay by \$75 a month, retroactive to Oct. 1, 2002.

Almost 200,000 servicemembers drawing

Family Separation Allowance will see the pay jump from \$100 a month to \$250. Anyone eligible for FSA back through October will receive back pay as soon as military finance centers can implement the change.

At least 250,000 military personnel draw Imminent Danger Pay of \$150 a month. That will rise, by 50 percent, to \$225, and again the increase will be retroactive to October.

These increases constitute a kind of \$800 million "thank you" to servicemembers from a grateful Congress. Rather than limit their gratitude to the warriors who drove Saddam Hussein from power, however, Congress raised the pay of any member assigned to a

dangerous area overseas or forced to live away from family longer than 30 days at a stretch.

Many of the eligible will include attendees at stateside service schools, on temporary duty assignments or deployed aboard ship or with aircraft squadrons, regardless of theater.

For that reason, the Senate designed the special pay increases to expire Sept. 30, 2003, unless the Hill's armed services committees, which will have more time to study the cost and logic of these changes, agree to make them permanent when they work to shape the fiscal 2004 defense authorization bill later this year.

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, introduced the special pays amendment as part of the \$79 billion wartime supplemental bill. He did so in part to head off more costly proposals from colleagues anxious to show their support for the war.

"It's a compromise position," said a Capitol Hill source who described Stevens as nervous about the cost. "He didn't want this to turn into a bidding war of who could do more for the troops."

Stevens had warned colleagues against making the changes permanent in their rush to pass an emergency supplemental. New pay initiatives are under the jurisdiction of the armed services committees. Also the special pay initiatives could add hundreds of

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## **Social Security Administration acts to protect benefits for families of troops serving under fire**

Military families will not lose valuable government disability benefits because a member of the household has been sent into combat. JoAnne Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security, has clarified the Agency's policies so that individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability payments, and Medicaid coverage, can continue to do so even if family income rises due to a mother, father or spouse receiving special combat-related supplements to their military pay.

"We must support the brave men and women who are fighting overseas, as well as their families here at home," Commissioner Barnhart said. "If one hand of government is providing some additional income to compensate soldiers for the sacrifices they are making for our country, we're not going to let another hand of government take that money away from their disabled child or spouse."

Aged, blind or disabled individuals whose families have limited means can qualify for monthly SSI benefits from the Social Security Administration. Those benefits, in turn, frequently lead to free medical care through state-run Medicaid programs. As a general rule, if other family income goes up, the SSI payment will go down. Members of the Armed Forces often receive

supplements to their basic military pay. Normally, a portion of any pay supplement would be used to reduce benefits paid to any family members on SSI. But Commissioner Barnhart's directive ensures that any additional pay received by military personnel deployed to a combat zone cannot be used to reduce SSI benefits paid to their children or spouse if they were not receiving the additional pay immediately prior to deployment.

Commissioner Barnhart also ordered a change in the way the Agency treats housing supplements paid to some military families. Traditionally, military bases provided actual housing for service members. But under public-private sector initiatives, some military bases now provide a housing allowance that is used to pay rent to contractors providing privatized housing. Until recently, the full amount of that housing allowance was used to offset any SSI benefits payable to family members. At Commissioner Barnhart's direction, the Agency will treat privatized housing the same as it has always treated actual military housing in the SSI program, enabling some military families in privatized housing who lost SSI payments and Medicaid coverage to regain those benefits.

People who need more information should contact their local Social Security office.





*101st Airborne Division medic Sgt. Michael Bush, right, hands boxes of medical supplies to citizens working at a health clinic in Baghdad on Thursday. Photo by Pfc. James Matise, U.S. Army.*

## **Family separation, imminent danger pays upped retroactively continued**

millions of dollars to future defense budgets, money the services might prefer to spend on other purposes.

“This is a large increase in costs for personnel and I fully support that,” Stevens said. If only this were a nation of billionaires, he added, “we could pay our military what they really deserve for being overseas, what they really deserve for their families when one or both parents are overseas.”

The House wartime supplemental made no mention of special pay increases but House members embraced the Senate plan when a conference committee met April 12 to work out bill differences. Defense officials suggested an alternative to raising FSA and IDP, arguing that most recipients will not have served in Iraq. Congress instead could raise Hostile Fire Pay, a more specific form of danger pay, which would end with hostilities. FSA, by contrast, will be paid at the higher rate whether or not there’s a war, and IDP is paid in many areas besides Iraq and Kuwait, including Bosnia and Kosovo.

In the end, Congress added \$4 billion to the \$74.7 billion emergency supplemental sought by President Bush. Twenty percent of that added cost can be traced to special pay raises.

The supplemental also broadens in two ways service authority to assist servicemembers who become ill or injured in the war in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

The first allows the services to buy for ill or injured returnees up to \$250 in clothing, either because civilian attire is needed to return home on commercial aircraft or because uniforms were destroyed in combat or during medical treatment. The \$250 is a procurement cap, not an allowance.

A second clarifying provision allows payment of travel allowances to family members who visit loved ones hospitalized for wounds or

illness suffered in the war. Payment of family travel allowances had been based on a medical determination that such visits would improve a patient’s health. Now, said a Senate source, “it’s more of a morale and quality-of-life decision.”

Both clarifying provisions apply to members in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

## **Concurrent receipt update**

House-Senate conferees on the 2004 budget resolution have rejected a Senate plan to phase out the ban on concurrent receipt of both military retired pay and disability compensation for the most seriously disabled retirees.

Struck from the budget blueprint was an amendment from Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., to end over five years the ban on concurrent receipt for retirees with disabilities rated 60 percent or higher. Reid hoped to cover the cost of more than \$12 billion over 10 years using some of the \$300 billion in tax savings sliced from Bush’s economic stimulus package.

The administration still threatens to veto any concurrent receipt initiative. Many lawmakers also seem to agree that Congress should give the administration time to implement the new Combat Related Special Compensation before deciding what more to do on this issue.

CRSC regulations will be published this month and applications distributed soon to military retirees through retiree newsletters. CRSC will be the equivalent of full concurrent receipt for roughly 35,000 retirees, those with disabilities for which they received the Purple Heart and those with disabilities rated 60 percent or higher that can be tied to combat, combat training, hazardous duty or “instrumentalities of war.”



## U.S. companies helping out soldiers

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Hotels are offering free rooms. Baseball teams are giving away tickets. Banks are lowering rates. And restaurants are offering everything from doughnuts to dinners.

American companies are using a variety of special discounts to thank members of the military, both at home and abroad.

“That’s the least we can do for our boys,” said Tommy Kiddy, manager of Daddyo’s Cafe & Grill in Waveland, Miss.

The restaurant has delivered doughnuts every morning to national guardsmen who provide security at an industrial park. “These guys don’t get paid a lot of money, so we wanted to do what we could,” Kiddy said.

Military discounts are not a new concept, and many companies offer standing deals. But since the war with Iraq, businesses have quickly lined up to be among those making offers that recognize service members for their sacrifices.

“You can tell the businesses that are involved in that aren’t doing it for publicity,” said Capt. Tom Crosson of the U.S. Southern Command in Miami. “It’s just their opportunity to support the military.”

Club Broadway, a casino in Everett, Wash., will throw a party for troops returning home with the USS Lincoln. The YMCA in Grand Rapids, Mich., is waiving membership fees for soldiers and families. In Iowa, Bankers Trust lowered interest rates on loans and credit cards to help families of National Guard members activated in recent months.

“We appreciate everything they do,” said B.J. Lepinski, who owns a Great Clips hair salon in Santee, Calif.

The salon is offering a military discount of 25 percent. “We believe that especially in wartime, the young men and women who serve

this country deserve to be recognized,” Lepinski said.

The Whitelaw Hotel and five affiliated properties on Miami Beach are offering free Tuesday night stays and a discount rate through May for military members and their families. The Whitelaw’s Tuesday rate: \$150.

“Any kind of recognition is nice,” said Adrian Palomeque, 26, a Coast Guardsman from Fort Lauderdale who took advantage of the perk. “It reminds you that you’re doing something worthwhile.”

America’s pastime is also doing its part. The Florida Marlins are giving all military families free tickets to every home game, as are some colleges and minor league baseball teams, including Atlanta’s Triple-A affiliate in Richmond, Va. and Minnesota’s Double-A team in New Britain, Conn.

Anheuser-Busch’s five theme parks — Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va.; SeaWorld Orlando; SeaWorld San Diego; SeaWorld San Antonio; and Sesame Place in Langhorne, Pa. — have announced a program to provide free single-day admissions for troops and their families from Memorial Day through Veteran’s Day.

Routine businesses like contractors, fast-food restaurants, chiropractors and housekeeping companies are among those offering discounts. Some are more unusual than others.

A Glen Allen, Va., mall is offering free extra pictures with the purchase of a photo package with the Easter bunny. And Genmar, the world’s largest builder of boats, is offering rebates up to \$25,000 on new boats.

“This is a small way ... to say thank you to the men and women who so bravely serve,” Genmar chairman Irwin Jacobs said.

## Pentagon says pilot’s remains identified

WASHINGTON (AP) — The remains of one of two Air Force pilots who were declared missing after their F-15 fighter jet was shot down over Iraq on April 7 have been recovered and identified, the Pentagon said Friday.

The pilot was identified as Capt. Eric B. Das, 30, of Amarillo, Texas.

The Pentagon provided no details on when or how his remains were recovered. It said the whereabouts of the other F-15 pilot, whose name has not been released publicly, is “still unknown.”

The search for the second pilot continues, the Pentagon said. The fighter jet was reported to have been shot down near Tikrit.

Das was assigned to the 333rd Fighter Squadron of the 4th Fighter Wing, based at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

The Pentagon announcement raised to 127 the number of Americans killed in the war. Two are still listed as missing — the other F-15 pilot and an Army soldier

# Seven father-son teams serving in unit

by Teresa M. Walker

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) - First Sgt. Cody Mosier isn't sure what would happen if his unit came under fire and his fellow soldier, son Travis, was shot. He only knows what he hopes he would do.

"I would hope I would continue on with the job. I've got 90 other guys I've got to worry about," said Mosier, of Whitwell, Tenn.

Their unit, the 1st Battalion of the 181st Field Artillery of the Tennessee Army National Guard, is unusual in having seven fathers serving with their sons.

"I don't think it's a bad thing," said Staff Sgt. Roy Ware of Chattanooga, Tenn. "It's just the way times have changed now. In any industry or any job-related field, sons follow their fathers."

Military regulations do not prohibit immediate family from serving together, and National Guard units, drawn from the population of the communities where they are based, often tap families with generations of a military tradition.

The 422-member unit specializes in operating mobile rocket launchers. Its soldiers from Tennessee and Georgia have spent the past month at Fort Campbell training on perimeter defense and protecting checkpoints, as they await orders.

The number of fathers serving with sons swelled to seven when this unit, which served in Kuwait and Iraq during Desert Storm, was activated in January. That prompted two 23-year-old sons - Spcs. Jeffery Ware and Jeb Kittle - to join up to serve with their fathers.

Ware was studying aviation electronics in Oklahoma already in the National Guard, so he quickly notified his unit he was transferring and now works under his father on communications.

Serving with dad is better than waiting for him as he did during Desert Storm.

I was always checking the mail making sure there were letters," Jeffery Ware said. "If I didn't receive a letter every week, I knew something was wrong. (Now) I know where he's at. I don't have to worry about him too much."

Jeb Kittle, an Army veteran, left his job on a Gulf of Mexico oil rig to join the same battery as his father, Sgt. James Kittle, 47, of Ringgold, Ga.



*Father and son members of the 181st Field Artillery of Chattanooga, Tenn., gather to be interviewed outside their barracks at Fort Campbell Army Base in Fort Campbell, KY., Wednesday, April 16, 2003. They are part of a unique battalion that has seven fathers and sons serving together. (AP Photo/John Russell)*

"I probably wouldn't have done it if he hadn't been in the unit," Jeb Kittle said. "I knew they had a very high probability of being deployed. That's why I joined up."

Line up the 14 men with fathers in back and sons in front, and it's easy to see the relationships.

But Guard officials didn't tally seven fathers and seven sons until the unit prepared to mobilize, said Sgt. 1st Class Randy Harris, the Tennessee Guard's

public affairs director. Tennessee Guard officials believe the number of father-son pairs is the most of any guard unit in the country.

"We got everybody together, it was kind of apparent we have a lot of fathers and sons here. We knew we had some. We didn't realize we had that many," he said.

Maj. Paul Ballinger, 54, of Lafayette, Ga., not only serves in the same unit as his son, Pfc. Ryan Ballinger, 25, of Ringgold. His son-in-law Randy Vaughn also is a soldier there.

"My sister probably has it the hardest," Ryan Ballinger said. "She's missing three."

Staff Sgt. Richard Mullins, 44, of Chattanooga is one of four fathers serving in the same battery as their sons. It's only some comfort to his wife.

"She's really worried about it in a lot of ways both of us being gone," Richard Mullins said. "Of course, she feels a little bit better that we're both going together. She knows I'll take care of him. Or vice versa. We take care of each other."

**THREAT ADVISORY**

**ELEVATED**

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks.

**Friday, April 18, 2003**





*U.S. soldiers arrest robbers who broke into a Baghdad bank and lowered small children inside to carry off bundles of dollars and Iraqi dinars. Iraqis began rioting, fearful the thieves would steal their life savings. Soldiers had to impound the money the protesters wanted. (AP photo)*



*Paratroopers of 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division radio command that they have found munitions that could be used by anti-coalition forces while searching the village of Khar Bolah, Afghanistan, Wednesday, April 16, 2003. Eighteen months after U.S.-led forces drove out the Taliban regime, search missions like this one, dubbed Operation Crackdown, show that dangers still lurk in the barren Afghan landscape. (AP Photo/HO, Charles D. Meseke, U.S. Army)*



*A soldier from the U.S. 173rd Airborne stands guard at one of the refineries at the Baba Gurgur oil field in Kirkuk, Iraq Thursday, April 17, 2003. Local officials say they can have the facility operating soon, but looting seriously hampered their employees' ability to come back to work. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)*



*Two U.S. marines stand guard at the main gate of the United Nations Headquarters at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Thursday April 17, 2003. The U.S. troops entered the compound after Iraqis looted it. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)*

